

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: NOAA Science Advisory Board

Report Run Date: 06/05/2019 04:19:07 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

NOAA Science Advisory Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

2203

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/26/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

06/26/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Secretary's Decision Memorandum

13. Effective Date

08/15/1997

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

2

16b. Report Date

05/14/2018

Report Title

EISWG Final Report to NOAA Assistant Administrators

05/16/2018

EISWG Report to Congress

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 2

17a. Open 5 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 5

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

This meeting was one of three annual in-person meetings of the SAB. Topics considered included the following: (1) Discussion of SAB Review of the NOAA Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information; (2) Discussion of SAB Review of Indigenous and Local Ecological Knowledge; (3) Quantification and documentation of the value of information gathered by NOAA; (4) Better understanding of how information is used, and (5) Updates from the Acting NOAA Administrator and Acting Chief Scientist.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the next steps in the development of the SAB Biennial Work Plan.

Start

End

10/30/2017 - 10/31/2017

02/20/2018 - 02/20/2018

This was one of three annual in-person meetings held by the SAB. Topics considered included the following: (1) SAB Biennial Work Plan: Discussion to Date and Discussion of Next Steps on SAB Biennial Work Plan; (2) Discussion of SAB Report on Arctic Research Review; (3) Discussion of SAB Report on Emerging Technologies for NOAA Ocean Research, Operations and Management in the Ecosystem Context; (4) Presentation of National Academy of Sciences Report: "Thriving on Our Changing Planet-A Decadal Strategy of Earth Observations from Space"; (5) Presentation of Report from the Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG); (6) Updates to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for Climate, Data Archive and Access and Environmental Information Systems Working Groups; and (7) Updates from the Acting NOAA Administrator and Acting Chief Scientist. The purpose of this meeting was the final review and approval of the SAB Biennial Work Plan and consideration of the next steps in implementation of the Plan.

04/09/2018 - 04/10/2018

This was one of three annual in-person meetings held by the SAB. Topics considered included the following: (1) Updates on topics from the SAB 2018-19 Biennial Work Plan; (2) Presentation on NOAA's Unmanned Systems [UsX] Future Plans and the Role of the SAB in Providing Advice on these; (3) NOAA Response to the SAB Review of the High Arctic Research Program; (4) Current NOAA Activities in Aquaculture Science and the Role of the SAB in Providing Advice on these; (5) Presentations on NOAA in the Northeast; (6) Updates from the Acting NOAA Administrator on the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, from the Assistant Secretary on NOAA Research to Operations, and from the NOAA Chief Scientist.

05/24/2018 - 05/24/2018

07/17/2018 - 07/18/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 5

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$331,537.00	\$340,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$32,548.00	\$40,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$22,857.00	\$22,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$89,951.00	\$110,000.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$165,233.00	\$165,000.00
18d. Total	\$642,126.00	\$677,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.70	1.70

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

NOAA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) assists the agency in maintaining a complete and accurate understanding of scientific issues critical to the agency's missions, from forecasting weather to stewardship of the Nation's fisheries. The SAB is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (aka the NOAA Administrator) on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services, to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. This purpose, as expressed in the SAB's charter, reflects the missions of the Agency and so better aligns the SAB with NOAA's needs. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that NOAA's science programs are of the highest

quality and provide optimal support to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction. The SAB provides specific advice and recommendations on all aspects of NOAA's science programs and activities in areas the Board deems necessary or in response to specific requests by NOAA. The SAB makes these recommendations in the form of oral guidance, written reports, and communication to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. The SAB also conducts its business through the use of standing working groups. There are currently four standing working groups - Environmental Information Services; Ecosystem Sciences and Management; Data Archive and Access Requirements; and Climate.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Consisting of eminent scientists, engineers, resource managers and educators, the diverse membership of the group assures expertise reflecting the full breadth of NOAA's responsibilities. Members are appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (aka the NOAA Administrator) to serve three year terms, with the possibility of renewing once. Members may serve until their replacements are appointed but do not have to do so. If a member remains on the Board past his/her completion date, language in the latest Charter indicates that this may only be done with approval of the NOAA Administrator and for a period of time not to exceed one year beyond the original appointment's completion date. This ensures that members have a clear time frame for rotating off the SAB. The term limits ensure that experts are moved on and off the Board in consistent fashion to ensure a diversity of opinions over time. The membership in FY2018 was diverse, including: eight academic researchers and science administrators, three consultants on national scientific matters; one member from non-academic, non-profit policy, research and education institution; two from industry; and one retired from state government (this reflects the total membership of 15, including those who resigned or rotated off during the fiscal year). The Board membership was composed of five females and ten males. Maintaining the diversity and professional balance of the Board membership continues to be a priority and a challenge in NOAA's evaluation and selection of new appointees.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The NOAA SAB has approximately three in-person meetings per year, budget permitting, and teleconferences in between those. At all meetings, the Board considers topics that are current and relevant to the science and technology issues that are being addressed by researchers, educators, and agencies in conducting advanced atmospheric and oceanic research and in advancing NOAA forecasting and stewardship missions. Five meetings were held in FY2018, three in person and two virtual. Two in-person meetings were held in the Washington DC area; one meeting was held in New Hampshire. The

topics for the meetings are solicited from the leadership of NOAA and from the Board members through a formal process. Meeting topics are selected based on needs expressed by either NOAA through such documents as the Annual Guidance Memorandum or by Board members based on their understanding of critical issues. When meetings are held outside of the Washington DC area, a focus is placed on regionally-important issues; this was the case at the New Hampshire meeting. In addition to topical issues, important elements of SAB meetings are updates from SAB working groups and the consideration and approval/ disapproval of their reports. This year, the SAB meetings focused on development of its first Work Plan. By the end of this FY, the SAB had approved a Work Plan with eight topics to consider. A ninth topic continues to be under negotiation with the NOAA leadership. This Work Plan may be found on the SAB website.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

NOAA's ability to carry out and continually improve its forecasting and stewardship missions depends on scientific and technological expertise that resides both within and outside the agency. NOAA must have access to the most advanced atmospheric and oceanic research and tap the best ideas for applying scientific breakthroughs to its mission. It must also be forward-looking, able to anticipate needs in coming years, and ensure that the agency is performing and funding research and education that will answer those future requirements. In managing NOAA's research, NOAA leadership must be able to base its decisions on the most recent developments in the broad areas of rapidly changing science and technology that underlie the agency's work. The SAB plays a critical role in affecting NOAA's strategic goals for long- and short-term improvement in environmental forecasting and stewardship by advising NOAA on ever-changing management, stewardship, and regulatory needs and on emerging science and technology. For that reason, the SAB in FY2018, per the new Concept of Operations adopted in 2016, developed a Work Plan to address these needs in a systematic fashion as requested by NOAA leadership.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A - No closed or partially closed SAB meetings have been held in FY2018.

21. Remarks

Subcommittee costs are included as part of the committee costs.

Designated Federal Officer

Cynthia J. Decker Executive Director, NOAA Science Advisory Board

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Avery, Susan	11/27/2017	11/27/2018	President Emerita, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Donahue, Michael	10/31/2016	10/31/2019	Vice President and Director, National Ecosystem Restoration Practice, URS Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Faulconer, Walter	10/30/2016	10/30/2019	Faulconer Consulting Group (FCG)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grossman, Robert	12/06/2017	12/05/2020	Frederick H Rawsoin Professor and Jim & Karen Frank Director of the Center for Data Intensive Science, University of Chicago	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Joseph, Everette	03/14/2016	03/13/2019	Director, Atmospheric Science Research Center, SUNY University at Albany	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kalnay, Eugenia	03/11/2016	03/10/2019	Research Professor, University of Maryland	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lenhardt, Christopher	12/06/2017	12/19/2020	Domain Scientist, Earth Data Science, RENCi, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
May-Brett, Jean	11/27/2017	11/27/2018	Retired STEM Partnership Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Education	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moss, Richard	03/13/2016	03/12/2019	Pacific Northwest National Lab and University of Maryland	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Polasky, Stephen	10/31/2016	10/31/2019	Professor, Depts of Economics AND Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reed, Denise	03/15/2016	03/14/2019	Science Director, The Water Institute of Louisiana	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rheault, Robert	11/25/2017	11/24/2020	Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Scarlett, Lynn	10/31/2016	10/31/2019	Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Storksdieck, Martin	11/25/2017	11/24/2020	Director, Center for Research on Lifelong STEM Learning; Professor, College of Education and School of Public Policy, Oregon State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Winokur, Robert	10/29/2016	10/29/2019	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 15

Narrative Description

As the Science Advisory Board advises on all aspects with respect to science at NOAA, by its nature the SAB supports the agency's mission. To strengthen this connection, the SAB charter reflects the Agency's mission statement. The charter states that the first

objective of the SAB is to: advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services, so as to better understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. As NOAA has adjusted its strategic plan to reflect a One NOAA perspective through better cross-Line Office communication, the SAB charter aligns the advisory board to follow this cross-disciplinary perspective.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee

for the life of the committee?

645

Number of Recommendations Comments

There were no recommendations in FY 18. This was a transition year in NOAA leadership and the SAB spent its time engaging in discussions with the new leaders and developing its Work Plan in response to those discussions. SAB Working Groups were also awaiting the completion of the Work Plan to determine the direction of their own work.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

35%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Recommendations made by the Science Advisory Board prior to July 2002 continue to be collated and assessed to determine how many have been implemented.

Recommendations by the SAB since July 2002 are being tracked by the SAB staff office to ensure that the Agency has provided a response. Many of the recommendations are of the nature that will take several years and thousands of dollars to implement. The agency is not always able to implement these fully but has made an effort to at least address these partially and provide explanations for why they are or are not yet fully implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

25%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

As per the previous explanation, full implementation of many of the recommendations would require significant changes to the agency programs and budget. This is not always feasible and so a number of the recommendations are only able to be partially implemented.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The agency works with the SAB Office to prepare formal responses to any and all recommendations made by the SAB. The agency has one year to provide a response

back to the SAB after recommendations are provided to the agency. This response takes the form of a presentation at a public meeting of the SAB and a written report that is posted on the SAB website. In FY 2011, the SAB discussed the timeframe for NOAA responses. Some responses have taken up to three years to be received. The SAB was very concerned that this is too long. Further, the SAB discussed working with NOAA to revise the response requirement to one year or sooner if appropriate. The specific request for a quicker response will be made when recommendations are delivered to the NOAA Administrator. In FY2018, responses to three SAB reports from previous years were received - Local and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge; Emerging Technologies in Oceanographic Research, and High Arctic Research.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Action Comments

Although NOAA has adjusted its science and technology priorities, including internal allocation of resources, the SAB recommendations do not typically address issues that require regulatory or legislative changes. The SAB does not provide advice on specific grant or contract allocations.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Publications



Other



Access Comments

Federal Register notices.